



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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GOVERNOR

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JAMES W. HOLSINGER, JR., M.D.  
SECRETARY

September 27, 2004  
EPSDT Special Services  
Transmittal #A-15

Dear Provider:

October is Lead Screening Awareness Month. This is a great time to remind you of the importance of testing each patient under 6 years of age for lead poisoning. Under EPSDT Federal guidelines, all Medicaid children under 6 years of age must be tested for lead poisoning.

In order to avoid permanent damage resulting from lead poisoning, a risk assessment should be completed from 6 months up to 6 years of age. This assessment should be documented in the child's record. Blood lead level tests are required at age 12 and 24 months. A good time to do the assessment and the blood lead level test is when the child has his/her Well Child Check-up. If the child is 6 years of age or younger and has never had a blood lead level test, please complete one immediately.

What can lead poisoning cause?

- Behavior and learning problems
- Slowed Growth
- Mental Retardation
- Hearing problems
- Speech and Language problems
- Seizures

How does lead get into the body?

- Eating paint chips from paint that was made prior to 1978
- Breathing lead dust
- Breathing paint dust or putting painted toys which were produced prior to 1978 into the child's mouth

September 27, 2004

Page 2 of 2

A child can be exposed to lead poisoning in many ways, and the best way to protect him/her is to administer a simple blood level test.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James W. Holsinger, Jr.".

James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
Secretary